

of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

With this wisdom in mind, I rise today to honor an outstanding New York State teacher, Lynn Astarita Gatto, and to congratulate her on being chosen as a recipient of the 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Ms. Gatto is a second grade teacher at Henry Hudson Elementary No. 28, a school located in my Congressional district.

Each year a select group of teachers across the country are chosen as Disney honorees by a group of their peers that includes representatives from leading educational institutions and former Disney award honorees. This year, 44 winners were chosen out of a field of over 75,000 teachers. Ms. Gatto was among this elite group and is being acknowledged for her creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire students.

An educator for over 30 years, Ms. Gatto has devoted her life to the betterment of children. Her life-long service warrants particular praise because she has spent the majority of her career in an urban school largely made up of children from low-income families and those struggling with poverty. Ms. Gatto has chosen to focus her energy on students with differing abilities and has provided them with the tools needed for building successful futures.

In addition to her innovative work at Henry Hudson Elementary, Ms. Gatto has published articles in teacher journals, contributed to academic books, and written science modules for elementary school students. Each spring, she teaches a course at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education on the theory and learning of elementary science. Ms. Gatto was also recognized in 2004 for her excellence in teaching when she was chosen as the New York State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask that you join me in congratulating Ms. Lynn Astarita Gatto on being selected as a Disney Teacher Award honoree and for her tireless efforts to empower her students. She is a role model to educators, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIANT'S DESPAIR HILL CLIMB IN LAUREL RUN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Sports Car Club of America and Laurel Run Borough, sponsors of the Giant's Despair Hill Climb in Laurel Run, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Begun in 1906 as a supreme test of man and automotive machine, the hill climb has captured the imagination of many of America's premier race drivers and has provided a challenging course that has continued to attract racing aficionados year after year for the past century.

Over the years, the Giant's Despair Hill Climb has played host to some famous personalities who dared to challenge the course's grueling and dangerous turns. Those people

included Hugh Harding, Louis Chevrolet, Ralph DePalma, Carroll Shelby, Roger Penske, Bud Faust, Dellevan Lee, Dave Garroway, John Van Meyer, Oscar Koveleski, Jackie Cooper, John Halbing and Ron Moreck.

Held just outside of Wilkes-Barre in Laurel Run Borough on East Northampton Street, the Giant's Despair Hill Climb starts out as a long, gently rising straightaway about one quarter mile in length that leads into a fast left turn that tests both nerves and skill. Then it goes on to a short chute and the "Devil's Elbow," a sharply rising hairpin turn that goes off camber at its crest. Next is a series of 90 degree turns connected by short straights. Finally comes the incline, a meandering quarter mile stretch that rises at 22 degrees to the finish line.

Ron Moreck finished the course in 39.914 seconds in 2001 and is the current race record holder.

The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Sports Car Club of America predicts at least 10,000 race fans from West Virginia to Connecticut will come to the area to see the race and that over \$100,000 in revenues will be generated for the local economy.

Oscar Koveleski, who won the race and set a new time record in 1977 that held for 15 years, described the event as one of the best hill climbs in the world. He also noted that the event has generated much interest from manufacturers of alternative fuel vehicles that include propane, electric hybrids, converted Indianapolis 500 cars that run on methanol, biodiesel and other fuels.

The original hill climb winner in 1906 finished the race in 2 minutes and 11 seconds. Technology and racing skills over the past 100 years have evolved to the point where the current record is 39 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the organizers and participants of the Giant's Despair Hill Climb. Over the past century, they and their predecessors have established and maintained an event of epic proportions that has captivated and entertained generations of Americans and has contributed to the advancement of automotive technology that has served this Nation well in this era of global economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALICIA HOLLOWELL FOR OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC COLLEGIATE ACHIEVEMENTS AS PITCHER FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPION ARIZONA WILDCATS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alicia Hollowell, a Suisun City resident and Fairfield High School graduate for her outstanding performance as a pitcher for the Arizona Wildcats.

Ms. Hollowell was born on February 29, 1984 to Doug and Suzanne Hollowell of Suisun City.

On June 6, 2006, Ms. Hollowell struck out 13 batters, while pitching a complete game in Arizona's 5-0 victory over Northwestern giving Arizona the 2006 NCAA Women's Softball Championship. For her efforts she was named

the College World Series Most Outstanding Player.

Arizona's championship caps off a stellar collegiate career. During Ms. Hollowell's 4 years at Arizona, she compiled a 144 win 23 loss record with a minuscule earned run average under 0.90. In addition she struck out over 1700 batters.

Success is nothing new for Ms. Hollowell. While attending Fairfield High School she received the Gatorade Player of the Year award which is considered by many as the most Prestigious High School Athletic Award.

She left Fairfield High as the recordholder for strikeouts in a season, strikeouts in a career, and most wins in a career. A true testament of her will to win was her 61 strikeout performance in a 30 inning game.

On June 19, 2006, another of Ms. Hollowell's goals was fulfilled when she was named for the second straight year to the USA Softball Women's National Team where she will be competing for her second straight International Softball Federation World Championship in China.

As Alicia moves to the next phase of her life I wish her continued success. I know she will continue to represent the United States well.

TRIBUTE TO THE PATRIOTISM AND HEROISM OF MEL RING

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and heroism of Mr. Mel Ring.

Mr. Ring served with distinction in the Army Air Corps during the harrowing days of the Second World War. As a B-17 crew member in the 815th Squadron of the 483 Bombardment Group, Mr. Ring and his fellow crew members played an integral role in the Allied defeat of Nazi Germany.

The crew of the *Good Deal* formed in November 1943 with Mr. Melbourne Ring of Crook, CO, as one of the 13-member crew, which included Paul E. Ray, Warren O. Griffin, Carl B. Hardy, Gerald Kramer, Foster F. Knight, James I. Korshak, Walter J. Gladioux, August O. Bresciz, Theodore Engelun, Fred A. Clark, Jr., Robert J. Dalzin, and John M. Spear.

On April 12, 1944 Mr. Ring and the crew of the *Good Deal* participated in their first mission to Split, Yugoslavia. In the following months, the crew of the *Good Deal* saw action over Toulon, Milan, Weiner Neustadt, Vienna, Budapest, Blechhammer, Ploesti, and Memmingen.

Despite the fact that 14 of 26 American B-17s were lost over the German town of Memmingen on July 18, 1944, Mr. Ring and his crewmates successfully downed seven German fighters.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Mr. Ring's distinguished service and humbled by his courageous patriotism. The sacrifices he and the men of the *Good Deal* made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Melbourne D. Ring and the crew of the *Good Deal*.